Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canadian Forestry Service / Service Canadien des forêts

NO. 192

Canadian Forestry Service-Maritimes

TECHNICAL NOTE

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INSECTS AND DISEASES

FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN KOUCHIBOUGUAC NATIONAL PARK IN 1987

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey regularly survey national parks for forest insect and disease conditions. Some of the conditions encountered in Kouchibouguac National Park in 1987 are discussed briefly below.

Spruce budworm has been a major pest in Kouchibouguac National Park, as it has in much of New Brunswick in recent years. However, in 1987, the populations were light throughout the Park on balsam fir, white spruce, black spruce, and tamarack and no appreciable defoliation occurred.

Trembling aspen - various diseases and insects, such as Hypoxylon canker, leaf and twig blight, leafrollers, leaf folders, and leaf feeders, caused stress to aspen during the last few years, resulting in an unhealthy appearance. At Portage River, 32% of the trees were killed by Hypoxylon canker. In 1987, leafrollers, leaf feeders, and serpentine leafminer caused only light damage throughout the Park.

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Gypsy moth is a major defoliator of forest and shade trees in the northeastern United States. In New Brunswick, noticeable defoliation occurred in the Province for the first time in half a century. Severe defoliation of hardwoods in a patch of less than 5 ha resulted from feeding by gypsy moth in Charlotte County. Larvae also fed on foliage of fir and spruce regeneration and on ground vegetation. In 1987, the adult pheromone trapping program continued in the Park. Twenty-four traps were set out with the assistance of Park staff. Although two male adults were caught, there is no reason to believe that gypsy moth is present in the Park.

Birch leafminer and **birch casebearer** appear to be perennial problems in the Park on white birch and wire birch. In 1987, leaf browning caused by these insects was less intense in the Park than in previous years and only trace or light foliage discoloration was observed.

Uglynest caterpillar. The primary host for this insect is chokecherry, but the caterpillars also feed on pin cherry, black cherry and, occasionally, other plants. The larvae often live in large numbers in tents or nests. Numerous nests were found at The Pines area of Kouchibouguac National Park in 1987.

Abiotic conditions observed in the Park in 1987 included damage to trees by salt, snow, and ice. Some trees were killed by porcupines.

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May, 1988

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